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## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**72-HOUR REPORT****3 DECEMBER 2018**

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**(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER****(U) Calexico – MS-13 Gang Member and Convicted Killer Arrested in Migrant Caravan**

(U) A killer convicted in Honduras and a MS-13 gang member also from Honduras were arrested in California after crossing the border illegally. In the first incident, agents detected three people crossing the border about one mile east of the San Ysidro Port of Entry. The trio was arrested and taken to a Border Patrol station for processing. There, documents indicated that one of the men had been released recently from prison in Honduras after serving 10 years for homicide and three years for robbery. In a separate incident, near the Calexico Port of Entry, Border Patrol agents encountered a 29-year-old man suspected of being in the country illegally. The man told agents that he was a Honduran citizen who had traveled with the caravan, and that he was an active gang member with MS-13, a notoriously violent group.

SOURCE: 30 November 2018, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

**(U) San Diego – Three Dead and Eight Injured in Immigrant Smuggling Attempt at Border**

(U) An attempt to smuggle immigrants into the country illegally ended with three people dead and eight seriously injured in a crash in a remote area of California near the Mexico border. The incident began when US Border Patrol agents discovered tire tracks of several cars that ran from the international border north into the US. A piece of a vehicle was found and recognized as likely being from a pickup truck spotted nearby. Agents tried to stop the pickup, but it fled, entering and exiting Interstate 8 twice and weaving through traffic at speeds up to 100 mph. California authorities say one woman and two men were killed in the crash. Authorities haven't identified anyone involved in the crash but said the driver could face vehicular manslaughter charges.

SOURCE: 2 December 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) NATIONAL****(U) Virginia – Top Lieutenant to “El Chapo” Sentenced to Life in Prison**

(U) Falls Church – Damaso Lopez, a leader in Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel, pleaded guilty in September 2018 in federal court to drug trafficking charges after being extradited from Mexico earlier this year. The life sentence was expected after both sides agreed to a life term as part of a plea bargain. In court papers, Lopez admitted he was a senior leader in the Sinaloa cartel and controlled a faction with hundreds of men. He admitted using "sicarios," or hitmen, to conduct murders to further the cartel's interest and move tons of cocaine and other drugs throughout the Americas.

SOURCE: 30 November 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Afghanistan – Senior Taliban Commander Killed in Air Strike**

(U) Lashkar Gah – A top commander of the Taliban was killed in Afghanistan's southern province of Helmand in a joint operation by Afghan and US Special Forces. Abdul Manan, who was in charge of Helmand province for the insurgent group, was killed along with 29 others by an air strike while he was

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meeting local commanders and fighters in the Nawzad district. The report of Manan's death comes as both the Western-backed security forces and the Taliban have pushed to gain momentum as efforts have stepped up to find a peaceful settlement to end the 17-year war in Afghanistan. Although contacts have started between US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban representatives, there has been no let up in the fighting, with both sides aiming to build a favorable position in advance of any peace talks. SOURCE: 2 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

**(U) France – Worst Riot in a Decade Engulfs Paris**

(U) Paris – France's most violent urban riot in more than a decade engulfed some of central Paris as activists torched cars, smashed windows, looted stores and defaced the Arc de Triomphe with multi-colored graffiti. Protesters angry about rising taxes and the high cost of living clashed with French riot police, who closed off some of the city's most popular tourist areas and fired tear gas and water cannons as they tried to quell the mayhem in the streets. Thousands of French police were deployed to try to contain the violence, which began near the Arc de Triomphe and continued well after dark. Police said at least 110 people, including 20 police officers, were injured in the violent protests and 224 others were arrested.

SOURCE: 1 December 2018, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Mexico – Explosives Attack at US Consulate**

(U) Guadalajara – The US consulate was attacked with explosives hours before a visit to the country by US Vice President Mike Pence and first daughter Ivanka Trump. The explosion damaged a wall but caused no injuries. The attack occurred just before Pence and the President's daughter and adviser Ivanka Trump flew into Mexico City as the head of a high-level US delegation attending the inauguration of Mexico's new president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Prosecution sources said a person threw an explosive device at the building and ran away. The suspect was caught on film by security cameras but evaded authorities, despite the heavy security presence at the building.

SOURCE: 1 December 2018, [Agence France Presse](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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